

Specification Amendments

Page 5, lines 18 to 24 over to Page 6, lines 1 to 2, revise to read:

The latch 24 is suitably hook-shaped; its cooperating keeper 26 comprises a slot 27 sized to receive and retain the latch hook portion. Housing 12 is suitably rectangular in transverse cross-section and comprises front wall 28, rear wall 32, and side walls 34, 36. Housing front wall 28 is slotted to pass the latch 24 in shifting relation to and from the keeper 26. Side walls 34, 36 support the latch housing 25 [[10]] in position through mounting screws 38. Pull handle 18 defines the door inside handle and is sized for encirclement by and grasping with several fingers. An outside handle 42 is also fixed to the housing 12 to complete the door and latch assembly.

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[Page 6, line 3 to line 16, revise to read as follows:]

It will be noted that the handle 18 covers much of the housing locus 22, and will cover a latch-operating lever that is in the typical position. The invention places the latch 24 in the typical position in housing locus 22, but moves the latch operating lever to a position that is not behind or covered over by the handle 18. For this purpose the invention uses a 4-bar linkage 25 that transmits the rotary motion of the lever to the latch actuator as follows: A rotary actuator 44 located within the housing locus 22 serves to shift the latch 24 in locking and unlocking relation by rotation of shaft 45 in latch housing [[a lot]] slot 47. A hand-operated lever 46 is rotatably mounted to the housing 12 beyond the housing locus 22. Lever 46 is vertically spaced a predetermined distance D from the rotary actuator 44 and rigidly linked to the rotary actuator for

rotatably actuating the latch 24 by the rotatable lever without having the lever within the housing locus 22. Thus, hand actuation of the lever 46 and shifting of the latch 24 is free of interference from the pull handle 18.

Page 6, lines 17 to 23 and Page 7, lines 1-4, revise to read:

Lever 46 includes a rotatable lever plate 48, the lever plate and the lever being mounted to a common pivot, shaft 52, for rotation together responsive to hand operation of the lever. The rotary actuator 44 comprises a rotatable latch plate 54, the latch plate and the latch being mounted to a common pivot, shaft 45, for rotation together responsive to actuation of the latch plate by the lever 46 and its rotatable lever plate 48. Lever plate 48 defines a first bar 49, and lever plate 54 defines a second bar 55. Bars 58, 62 define third and fourth bars of the 4-bar linkage 25, through the coupling of the plates 48 and 54 by a pair of bars Bars 58, 62 are movably fixed to bars 49, 55 at either edge of the lever and latch plates 48, 54, respectively, and extending therebetween, so as to transmit rotary movement of the lever plate to the latch plate. It will be noted the bars 58, 62 are of a length to extend from within the housing locus 22 to beyond the housing locus and across the predetermined vertical distance D.